



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - March 4, 2003**

- ***In the West***, light rain and snow showers are scattered across the region, locally boosting topsoil moisture reserves and high-elevation snow packs, but having little overall effect on long-term drought. ***Western*** water-supply prospects are likely to be a concern for the remainder of the year due to the prevalence of below-normal reservoir levels and meager mountain snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, bitterly cold weather is returning to ***northern portions of the region***, where this morning's temperatures were as low as -20 degrees F and winter wheat retains only a shallow protective snow cover. Farther south, snow is developing on the ***central Plains***, but warm weather continues on the ***southern Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to reach or exceed 70 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, winter weather advisories and winter storm warnings are posted in a broad swath from the ***middle and lower Missouri Valley to southern Lower Michigan***. A developing storm system is already increasing livestock stress across the ***western Corn Belt***, where windy, sharply colder conditions accompany widespread snowfall.
- ***In the South***, beneficial showers are ending across the ***southern Atlantic States***, while very warm conditions linger across ***southern Florida***. Mild, dry weather favors a return to fieldwork elsewhere in the ***South***.

**Outlook:** A warming trend will take place across the ***Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States*** in advance of a cold front, accompanied by wet weather along the ***East Coast*** through mid-week. Meanwhile, a swath of significant snow will fall from the ***central Plains and Midwest to the lower Great Lakes region***. Bitterly cold weather will continue across the ***northern Plains and upper Mississippi Valley*** for the remainder of the week. In the ***Pacific Northwest***, cool, wet weather is expected. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 9-13 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Southeast, and northern Mid-Atlantic States***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Southwest, southern half of the Rockies, Plains, and middle Mississippi Valley***. Below-normal temperatures will prevail across the ***northern half of the U.S.***, while warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to the ***nation's southern tier***.

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